IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Garstenauer et al.

Appl. No. 10/021,688

Filing Date: December 11, 2001

For: Variable Hydraulic Valve Drive

Confirmation No. 9175

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED

FEB 2 4 2004 TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

<u>AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO 23 SEPT 03 OFFICE ACTION</u>

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 23, 2003, please address the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 12 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including the amended drawing figure is attached following page 19 of this paper.